REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 23-26 are pending. Claims 23-26 are amended by the present amendment. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment, as support for the amendments may be found at least at page 29, lines 22-25, page 48, line 8 to page 50, line 13, and Figures 6 and 12.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Yamagishi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,535,008, hereinafter "Yamagishi").

With regard to the rejection of Claims 27 and 37-41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Yamagishi, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 23 recites an information recording medium for recording MPEG-encoded information having groups-of-pictures each containing an I-picture, comprising:

> a management area configured to record management information; and
> an object area configured to record a data object in unit of a stream block containing data packets,
> wherein the data packets contained in said stream block correspond to one or more said groups-of-pictures, and
> *a last portion of said stream block or a last portion of a data area in said stream block is configured to have a padding area for a padding packet.* (Emphasis added).

Yamagishi relates to a method and apparatus for jump-reproducing video data. Yamagishi describes that the data is grouped into groups-of-pictures (GOPs).[1] An MPEG header may be included in the GOP, and this header may include a stuff byte.[2] However, it is respectfully submitted that there is no teaching or suggestion for a stuff byte in the last

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[1] See Yamagishi, column 2, lines 4-8 and Figures 1A, 1B, and 4A-4F.
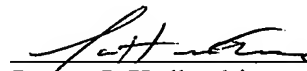[2] See Yamagishi, column 12, lines 38-40 and Figures 4B and 4F.

portion of the GOP.[3] Further, there is no stuff byte in the last portion of a sector.[4] Finally, there is no teaching or suggestion for a stuff byte in any portion of the GOP shown in Figure 7B.[5] Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that <u>Yamagishi</u> does not teach or suggest that "a last portion of said stream block or a last portion of a data area in said stream block is configured to have a padding area for a padding packet," as recited in Claim 23. Therefore, as <u>Yamagishi</u> fails to disclose or suggest the features of Claim 23, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 23 is patentable over <u>Yamagishi</u>.

As Claims 24-26 recite similar features to Claim 23, it is further respectfully submitted that Claims 24-26 also patentably define over <u>Yamagishi</u>.

Consequently, in view of the foregoing discussion and present amendment, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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[3]See <u>Yamagishi</u>, column 11, line 56 to column 12, line 40 and Figures 4A and 4B.
[4]See <u>Yamagishi</u>, column 13, lines 13-23 and Figure 5.
[5]See <u>Yamagishi</u>, column 18, lines 6-9 and Figure 7B.